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48



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B1, 1.5(D)

PAGE 01
ACTION AF-01

BUJUMB 02449 01 OF 02 191719Z

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/038W			

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O 191719Z JUL 94
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4103
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 1140
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02

BUJUMB 02449 01 OF 02 191719Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUJUMBURA 002449

DEPT FOR AF DAS BRYNN, AF/C, USAID
USIA FOR AF
EUCOM FOR J3
LONDON FOR MCKINLEY; PARIS FOR PERLOW
YAOUNDE FOR DAO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, OTRA, BY
SUBJECT: BRIAN ATWOOD, AID ADMINISTRATOR, VISITS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE Page - 1

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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48

Case Number: 199500645

BURUNDI OFFICIALS

REF: BUJUMBURA 02399

1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: STOPPING OVER IN BURUNDI FOR FOUR HOURS BETWEEN HIS VISIT TO GOMA AND HIS RETURN TO NAIROBI ON JULY 18, USAID ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD VISITED WITH LEADERS OF THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

3. USAID ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY BURUNDI FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN-MARIE NGENDAHAYO, WITH WHOM HE DROVE, PRIVATELY, TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, WHERE ATWOOD MET WITH UNSGSR ABDALLAH. AMBASSADOR KRUEGER AND DCM ACCOMPANIED. ABDALLAH BRIEFED ATWOOD ON THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR RESOLVING THE QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. THE UNSGSR STRESSED THE BENEFIT OF A CLEAR MESSAGE TO BURUNDIANS TO GET THAT ISSUE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

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PAGE 03

BUJUMB 02449 01 OF 02 191719Z

4. FOLLOWING THAT MEETING, ATWOOD PROCEEDED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE FOR AN HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH THE INTERIM PRESIDENT. ATWOOD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE U.S. LAID UPON DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS IN BURUNDI. HE TACTFULLY REMINDED PRESIDENT SYLVESTRE NTIBANTUNGANYA THAT HE HAD SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE, WHICH GAVE STRONG, LONG, AND CONSISTENT HELP TO BURUNDI AS IT PREPARED FOR ITS FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROCEEDING TO A CONCLUSION NOW IN SETTING THE DEMOCRATIC MACHINERY IN PLACE. WITH THAT DONE, ASSISTANCE BUDGETS AT USAID FOR BURUNDI COULD PROCEED AT THE STRENGTH AND WITH THE SUPPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI.

5. ATWOOD SAID PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD ASKED HIM TO VISIT THE REGION TO SURVEY THE IMMEDIATE REFUGEE CRISIS IN ZAIRE. PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD ALSO ASKED HIM TO STOP IN BURUNDI TO CONVEY HIS COMPLIMENTS TO GRB LEADERS FOR KEEPING THE INTERNAL SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM.

6. NTIBANTUNGANYA RESPONDED IN CHARACTERISTIC FASHION, WITH A 45 MINUTE DESULTORY DISCUSSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON. NTIBANTUNGANYA SAID IN THE CORRECT CONTEXT OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS THE ISSUE ESSENTIALLY IS CONCERN FOR SECURITY BY BOTH FRODEBU AND THE OPPOSITION. HE SAID THE GRB IS

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48

ATTEMPTING TO OVERCOME ALL ASPECTS OF THE CRISIS -- KILLING,
INFLUX OF REPATRIEES AND RWANDAN REFUGEES -- IN ORDER TO
CREATE AND ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE. MOST BURUNDIANS WANT A
STABLE SITUATION AND QUICKLY; BUT, BURUNDI'S POLITICAL CLASS
IS ITSELF DIVIDED, WHICH ALLOWS EXTREMISM TO FLOURISH. AS AN
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUJUMB 02449 01 OF 02 191719Z
INTERIM PRESIDENT HIS POWERS TO AFFECT THE SITUATION ARE
LIMITED.

7. PRESENTLY, THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE LED TO
ACCOMMODATION ON THE PRECONDITIONS SET BY OPPOSITION PARTIES,
NTIBANTUNGANYA SAID. THEY ARE NOW EMBARKED ON DEVELOPING A
GOVERNMENTAL CONVENTION THAT IS DETERMINING THE MEANS AND
MECHANISMS WHICH WILL ALLOW A PRESIDENT TO BE PUT INTO PLACE
AND WHICH WILL SPECIFY THE ORGANIZATION OF A FUTURE GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE

B1

8. NTIBANTUNGANYA STRESSED THAT THE GRB IS DOING EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE NOT TO HAVE RWANDAN EVENTS REPEATED HERE. HE TERMED
THE REFUGEE PROBLEM AS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE WHICH CONTINUES TO
PLAGUE THE REGION IN THE NEAR AND LONG TERM. IN HIS VIEW, IF
RWANDA REFUGEES REMAIN "TOO LONG" IN ZAIRE, THAT COUNTRY WILL
BE DRAGGED INTO THE QUAGMIRE OF ETHNIC VIOLENCE.

9. ATWOOD SAID PROBLEMS IN BURUNDI MUST REACH RESOLUTION IN A
TIMELY MANNER TO AVOID A REPETITION OF RWANDA HERE. HE TOLD

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 02449 02 OF 02 191719Z
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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 02449 02 OF 02 191719Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BUJUMBURA 002449

DEPT FOR AF DAS BRYNN, AF/C, USAID
USIA FOR AF
EUCOM FOR J3
LONDON FOR MCKINLEY; PARIS FOR PERLOW
YAOUNDE FOR DAO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, OTRA, BY
SUBJECT: BRIAN ATWOOD, AID ADMINISTRATOR, VISITS
BURUNDI OFFICIALS

NTIBANTUNGANYA THAT U.S. INTEREST IS TO HELP BURUNDI MAINTAIN
PEACE AND CALM AS THE COUNTRY WORKS OUT ITS PROBLEMS -- WE ARE
FORTUNATE TO HAVE AMBASSADOR KRUEGER IN PLACE AS AN

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INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. ATWOOD EXPLAINED THAT GIVEN THE INFLUENCES CAUSING MASSIVE NUMBERS OF RWANDANS TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY, THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO MOVE FOOD AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES INTO PLACE IN SOUTHWEST RWANDA TO AVOID POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING AFFECTS IN THE REGION. BURUNDI'S ASSISTANCE THROUGH CONTINUED ACCESS TO BUJUMBURA AIRPORT AND PORT FACILITIES ARE NEEDED. PROUDLY CITING THE GRB'S ASSISTANCE TO THE RWANDAN EVACUATION IN APRIL, THE INTERIM PRESIDENT PLEDGED BURUNDI'S SUPPORT WITH THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE RWANDA REFUGEE CRISIS.

10. FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, ATWOOD, KRUEGER, AND LANGE MET BRIEFLY WITH CHARLES MUKASI AND CYRILLE SIGEJEJE, RESPECTIVELY, THE PRESIDENTS OF UPRONA AND RADDES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BUJUMB 02449 02 OF 02 191719Z

[REDACTED]

ATWOOD'S PRESENCE REINFORCED THE MESSAGE THAT THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, AND CONSEQUENT UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHO WAS FULLY IN AUTHORITY IN THE GOVERNMENT, MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PROCEED WITH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. SINCE USAID HOLDS THE PURSE STRINGS, THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT CARROT TO HOLD BEFORE THE [REDACTED] OPPOSITION LEADERS. ATWOOD EMPHASIZED THAT USAID WANTED TO PROCEED WITH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, BUT ONLY IF CONVINCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY WERE PROCEEDING WITH GOOD FAITH AND WITH A LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS. (COMMENT: THE TIME WAS SHORT, THE COMMENTS DIRECT, AND THE MEETING CONSTRUCTIVE. MUKASI AND SIGEJEJE DID NOT RESPOND WITH A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE BUT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE. END COMMENT.)

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11. BEFORE DEPARTING THE AIRPORT, ATWOOD REITERATED THE SAME MESSAGE BEFORE BURUNDI TELEVISION CAMERAS. THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF USAID PROJECTS HERE INDICATED THAT ATWOOD'S VISIT GAVE RENEWED ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE AID STAFF HERE.

KRUEGER

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